

# COMMUNITY NEWS/EVENTS

## The adventures of a journalist-finding a story in Hualapai country

BY MARGIE CAMPOS,  
YAN News

June 28, 2017 took me on a little adventure to Peach Springs Youth camp to visit the Yuman Language Family Summit that the WIOA (Work Innovation Opportunity Act) youth and Yavapai Culture department were attending from Yavapai-Apache Nation. Peach Springs is about

My drive began early on a Wednesday morning as I arrived in Seligman where I made sure I was gassed up since I was unsure of where I was going. I was told Frazier Wells. If I had not been told which direction to go, I probably would have bypassed Peach Springs and ended up in Kingman.

As I traveled the road heading to Supai Canyon, I found a sign pointing west on a dirt road that said 'Fraizer Wells'. So, off I went to find the camp. I drove about 25-30 minutes into the beautiful pines and feared that Bigfoot might come dashing out but I continued on. I came upon another dirt road criss-crossing the road I was on that gave the direction to the Youth Camp so I turned right and followed the dirt road.

After driving a few miles down the road I found this beautiful ramada wood building. As I approached the ramada I spotted Nell Engle and Delores Plunkett of Yavapai-Apache Nation and I was asked, "What are you doing way over here?". They began to tell me how the youth were trying to make pottery and some type of activity with what appeared like Yucca. They were using their finger nails trying to shred them into string-

like so they could weave them together to make bracelets or necklaces. This was interesting to see the youth working on this project knowing there would be a beautiful outcome. At the next table were youth making beads out of clay that would later be used to string onto their bracelets or necklaces. Some of the youth just made clay objects. These youth have some great talent such as Franklin Garner, a teen from Tunlii, who made a little clay buffalo and another youth who made a rose showing all of the petals.

The next project they began were pine needle baskets. Gertrude Smith of the Yavapai Culture Department was showing the people how to begin their baskets that appeared a little com-



Getting to know your culture with crafts at the language conference in Peach Springs.

Photo by Margie Campos, YAN News



Buffalo by Franklin Garner at the Yuman Language Conference. Photo by Margie Campos, News Photos

plicated but the youth were catching on. Tribal elder Nell Engle brought out her pine needle basket that she made years before and showed the youth how she made a necklace as it was small but beautiful.

I was invited to join them for lunch in the cafeteria where I

met some of the ladies from the Fort Mohave Reservation on the California-Arizona border as well as people from Peach Springs. After some conversation with them, I found out I was actually related to some of them. After a filling lunch and great conversation, I went back to see how far they

had gotten on their baskets and some of them were progressing very well while others were still joining in. The youth had arrived on Monday June 26, 2017 and set up camp, pitching tents and enjoying the cool pines. The participants did not have to rough it as they had access to running water



Yucca strands used for weaving at Yuman Language Conference. Photo by Margie Campos, YAN News



Phillip Grass, Jr. (L) and Dayton Smith, WIOA students, prepare a noon salad for an exercise class in Middle Verde. WIOA coordinated this activity with the Diabetes program.

in restrooms and showers.

It was good to see our youth participating with other youth from differ-

ent tribes.  
All photos by Margie Campos, YAN News reporter



Clay flower by youth participant at Yuman Language conference.



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